

ELLEN BARBER FULLARD-LEO

THE WATUMULL FOUNDATION ORAL HISTORY PROJECT

Ellen Barber Fullard-Leo

(1884 - 1974)

Ellen Fullard-Leo was an internationally acknowledged and honored promoter of amateur athletics, in which she believed from a missionary's point of view. Her interest in sports developed into a mission when she married Leslie Leo, a well-known amateur athlete who was also a building contractor and sculptor.

Shortly after coming to Hawaii in 1915, they bought an acre of property in a new Waikiki subdivision, Royal Grove, next to famed Aiea. That property is now the leased site of King's Alley. In 1922, they bought Palmyra Island and, during World War II, provided the United States with a military base there. In 1979, unfortunately, that atoll was being considered as a site for nuclear waste, despite objections of the owners.

Leslie Leo did the interior and ornamental work on the Mormon Temple at Laie in 1919. Before he died in 1950, he did his final work on Doris Duke Cromwell's estate on Black Point.

This transcript contains Mrs. Fullard-Leo's reminiscences of family, friends, interests, and activities, which not only offer valuable research material but also reveal her character and the accomplishments of a lifetime of service to others.

Katherine B. Allen, Interviewer

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INTERVIEW WITH ELLEN BARBER FULLARD-LEO

(MRS. LESLIE FULLARD-LEO)

At her Kahala home, 4347 Kahala Avenue, Honolulu, 96816

June 7, 1972

F: Ellen B. Fullard-Leo

A: Kathy Allen, Interviewer

F: My name is Ellen Fullard-Leo, widow of Leslie Fullard-Leo, who was a contractor here in Honolulu for thirty-five years before he died [1915-50].

I was born and raised in Africa on what they call a Boer farm--Boer is the Dutch word for farmer so I'm really a Boer--in the British Colony near Capetown and raised in the very strict Victorian manner but in the Dutch language, under the British flag, so I could really sit and fight with myself.

My father [William Fullard] was Irish, the first child of the 1820 settlers in South Africa of the Irish party. And my mother [Johanna Minnaar Fullard] was a descendent of the original Huguenot families who went there from France through Holland in 1668. (She has a 1668 coffee urn made of brass which is a family heirloom.) Her people were all French, so I'm a bit of a mixture, just like you would say, "What is an American except for the Indians?" Well, "What is a South African?"

I was born on June 25, 1884, so I'm just old enough to practically live in the past. Those things come to me much better than--easier than having to delve into them. I was brought up in very strict Victorian manner and after the Boer War ["a war in which Great Britain fought against the Transvaal and Orange Free State, 1899-1902"], had to go to the Huguenot Seminary to learn to speak English. I had to go through all my education in the English language but I was raised to be a Presbyterian missionary. (She later mentioned that she learned more by traveling than she ever learned in school.)

My mother used to say, "It behooves a good wife to be interested in the hobbies of her husband," and mine was a very well-known international amateur athlete and he believed that wherever we lived we should give the community

some service, so it was naturally we found ourselves everywhere embroiled in amateur athletics. And I found that through athletics I could do my missionary work just as well as in the foreign mission field. Here in Hawaii it was very useful.

My father's name was William Fullard. My mother was a descendent of the Joubert-Malan-Minnaar. She was Johanna Minnaar Joubert Malan. These were real French names but they lost their spelling through the French being suppressed by the Hollanders--by the Dutch--so they just phonetically pronounce it this way, the way it's spelled now. The "B" in my name is Barber, a family name--my grandmother's name--from Ireland. So I'm really one-half Irish. I can't help it. But I think a little bit of Irish is interesting.

We always had tutors on the farm until the children were a certain age and then they're taken to boarding school. I went to the Huguenot Seminary, college, and university. That was the first college in Africa started for women by the renowned Dr. Andrew Murray. He was the head of the church. And our first principals were graduates from Mount Holyoke [College] in Boston so they weren't really very broad but they had the mission school also. It was the only university program in Africa. The men students used to come as day scholars and we had a lovely time with them.

At age twenty-five I left Johannesburg, went to Europe, and traveled through England and got to the United States. I had met my husband in Johannesburg--he was a building contractor--but we got married in America. He had a contract on the Grand Central Railway Station that kept us there for three years--1909 to 1912.

After that we went to Western Canada--Victoria, British Columbia. He had a contract there on the new wing of the Empress Hotel. They still call it the new wing, but that was about sixty years ago. That kept us there for about three years but while we were there it was very cold. He was originally an Australian and I came from Africa so we couldn't stand the cold, so one winter we decided to take an Australian boat, going south to Australia from Victoria, and we would get off at the first stop. It stopped at different islands going down. It happened to be Honolulu, seven days out, so we got off here and would wait here for six weeks while the boat went to Australia and turned around.

But in that time we lived at Waikiki. The Moana Hotel was the only hotel there then. That was in January 1915. (She later states quite accurately that the Seaside Hotel cottages were also there in Waikiki then.) And right across from the hotel, where now is Andrade's place [a shop] on Kalakaua and Kaiulani avenues, there was a

sign on the property, For Sale. It was the first subdivision they had in Honolulu and it was the land--the Royal Grove, it was called--of Prince Kuhio Kalaniana'ole. All that subdivision. And we found that it was much cheaper than watered property up in Victoria, so we bought two lots and decided to come back here. The climate was fine. So by the time the boat came back after six weeks, we were property owners in Hawaii and decided to go to Victoria and settle our affairs and come back here to live, which we did in October of 1915, and built our home on the corner of Kaiulani and Kalakaua.

But it was too noisy on that corner because the old tramcars still used to run on the rails and the road hadn't even been made. And right opposite [on the corner] where the Princess Kaiulani [Hotel] shops are now was a cemetery. "A very nice quiet neighborhood," my husband said. But it was too noisy road-wise, so we turned it in and took the next, between Koa and Prince Edward streets, and we lived there for fifty-three years until we leased the property and that's where the King's Alley is now. We have just about an acre there. But the day we bought the property I took a picture of my husband and my young son, five years old, up against a coconut tree that had been planted by Princess Kaiulani's father, Governor Archibald S. Cleghorn. And under kiawe trees there were cows and horses grazing in the grass. I still have the picture but I can't find it. Just imagine, now you have to go to a zoo to see what a horse or cow looks like.

We thought we'd be here for the duration of the first World War, but my husband started contracting and life wasn't so bad here. Everybody knew everybody else. It was more like a British colony really because there was only one bank, Bishop Bank [now First Hawaiian Bank], and everybody in it was a Scotchman, including Miss Margaret Todd. Her brother was already here, that's why she came out. The white population was comparatively small but everybody knew each other. It was a lovely place to live. But we got stuck and I've been here now fifty-six years.

A: What was the first building that your husband worked on after you came here, do you recall?

F: Oh yes, the Mormon Temple on the other side of the island [at Laie]. He did the ornamental work and the inside work. Some very fine work. I went through it--it's a beautiful place--before it was dedicated. I remember he fashioned beautifully a baptismal font inside in the first room. It's built as a great big basin on the back, I think, of seven oxen. When it was completed, he filled it with water and thought he'd have a dip in it, [being a] swimmer. Just then, Mr. Samuel E. Woolley, who was head of the

church at that time, saw him and my husband was very embarrassed. He thought it was a terrible thing to swim in a baptismal pool; but it was all right, it hadn't been dedicated or sanctified. After the ceremony, nobody was allowed to go in. I don't think very many people now can go in the building proper. [Thrum's Hawaiian Almanac, 1968, states that Samuel E. Woolley was "the manager of the colony" when the Laie temple was built in 1919 at a cost of \$200,000.]

It was fashioned or made like the temple, I suppose, in Salt Lake City, Utah, on different floor levels. Every time you leave one room you go a step higher and higher until you get up to the Holy of Holies. Wonderful, beautiful place. It depicts the Creation, right from before light came, up to the present time.

His last work was Doris Duke Cromwell's place on Black Point. He did some wonderful work there. She brought windows from India to copy. He was a sculptor. He made most of the work here in my yard. He passed away in 1950. If he were alive now he'd be 106 years old.

A: He would be older than Mr. William Borthwick, then. Bill Borthwick who was one hundred last month.

F: Oh yes, he was a very good friend of ours. I remember he was head of the tax office during the war [WW II] and during the trial of the Palmyra Case.

A: Palmyra Case? That doesn't ring a bell with me.

F: You weren't here then. The Palmyra Islands, where that coconut crab (hanging on the wall) comes from, about five degrees north of the equator. We own it. My husband and I bought it in 1922. There were fifty-two islands. The government moved in and created a base during the war and instead of paying us rent or agreeing to something, they sued us for the title--the land court title, like everywhere else, what the English call a parliament title. Being a land court title, they sued me for my property and the government had given us land court title, so they're supposed to go to bat and fight on your behalf, but the very government that gave it [tried to take it instead of fighting on her behalf].

It was taken over from the Hawaiian--it was a Hawaiian land court title--but when America annexed Hawaii, they [the United States government] agreed to respect the local titles and that was one of them. So they sued us five times in nine years [up to the Supreme Court of the United States]. We had to sell nearly all our property, mortgage everything [to pay for court costs, et cetera]. That practically killed my husband. We won every case up

to the Supreme Court; couldn't go further. We won the five cases. The papers used to be full of it here because if it went against us, so many of the titles were at stake really. They didn't know which way it would go. The government would have the right to confiscate ever so much land.

A: Do you still own those islands?

F: Yes. I think it's the only title in the Pacific that [is guaranteed] by the Supreme Court. They used it during the war as a base; constructed two hospitals there to bring the wounded from the west and southwest Pacific and there were about six thousand men [stationed there]. The navy went in there to open a channel to create a take-off and a landing for Pan American Airways. Pan American wanted to extend the Chinese Clipper idea down to Australia and New Zealand and the next American base they could use was Samoa. It was too far for the sea planes to go because it's about halfway [to Samoa], you see, just above the equator. So they opened a channel to get boats in to dig up and make the lagoon safer for landing and taking off--a three mile strip. [Palmyra is midway between Hawaii and Samoa.]

But then the war happened: Pearl Harbor. The Japanese went there the first Sunday, after they'd been here. They threw in one bomb but they didn't do anything further. The authorities there surrounded the whole group of islands with barbed wire. I think it's still there. They could try again to make it a base.

Pan American built a hotel there and they had about six thousand men altogether. But I haven't been there since I broke my hip. Now we have to charter a plane to go over. We used to operate our own boat but it was too expensive. After the airport and the navy went in, we weren't allowed to go there, so we just had to stick to fighting the cases. The last time I visited there was in 1953. [At that time, she said, she brought back a huge coconut and a baby coconut-crab. The baby crab is huge also but is small in comparison to a mature crab which reaches a size of about thirty inches.]

There are coconut crabs all through the Pacific, on Palmyra especially. They're very good eating but we weren't allowed to bring them into Honolulu. Our boat used to operate and the captain would bring me one. You could make a lovely salad for six people just from the two front big claws. But he used to kill it when the boat was off Diamond Head. We weren't allowed to bring them here, but there were no coconut trees here to speak of. We had about forty thousand trees on Palmyra. They just live on coconuts and the flavor of the meat is like coconut, very good.

A: (I asked her about a Madge Tennent portrait in her dining room where we were sitting)

F: The Madge Tennent picture. She sent me several at Christmas time. She always used to send me one. I have another one in my bedroom. That one's quite valuable. She and I were the only two women here from South Africa. I learned to know her here. I didn't know her there, of course. She came here via Australia and New Zealand. Her husband was a New Zealander and they lived in Fiji, I think. But I remember when she had the two children, they were quite small. My husband met her first on a tramcar. He had a contract with the Saint Francis Hospital and they lived up there somewhere and that's how we learned to know each other.

It was interesting the time her son--I don't know which one--went to London. He studied at the Royal Academy of Art in London. I think he took voice. My son was there taking stage work. He was afterwards in the movies for ten years. So it's interesting that they were only two boys from Honolulu and both their mothers came from South Africa where all the missionaries go.

I have three sons; Leslie Vincent, the eldest. In [motion] pictures he used the name Leslie Vincent. He acted with Clark Gable and Marlene Dietrich. His first picture was with Marlene Dietrich--Seven Sinners. Some of these old pictures come on now and again [on TV]. They don't have to pay for them, you know. But he looks after our estate now and manages it. He was educated in England and Europe and when he came home he was twenty and I had a six week's old baby. That was Dudley [Leinani], the second one. Then Ainsley [Kahealani], the last one. They live over in Kailua, both of those boys, and have families. Five grandchildren. The youngest is one and the eldest thirteen. I really should be a great grandmother at my age, shouldn't I?

When they had that long strike on [in Hollywood] and his father died, Leslie had to come home to look after our estate. I went away then and traveled for three years. I went to South America. I've been around the world four times; not around, but up and down. People now just go around the equator. Instead of eighty days, they can do it in about twenty-eight hours, can't they? I've been through seventy-six countries. My husband used to say, "A rolling stone gathers no moss but you do get the corners knocked off a bit."

I'm the youngest of a very large family. My father used to call it a real Irish family. I had seventeen brothers and one sister--nineteen--and twelve adopted brothers. Thirty-one altogether. But there was plenty of room for everybody. Our farm was larger than this island.

It's still there; I just visited it. We had flocks of ostriches and that's why I'm rather partial to ostriches. As a girl, my first riding horse was a billy goat and I had to ride ostriches along with the boys. My younger brothers were my only companions and, of course, at a certain age I had to attend a boarding school. Young ladies just didn't ride ostriches astride; it wasn't done.

The ostriches were raised for the feathers. Along with the royal family in England, they always have the Prince of Wales's insignia--three ostrich feathers. It was very fashionable to have long ostrich feathers trimmed on the hats and have all kinds of things made of ostrich feathers. Very expensive. But now it's not so fashionable so they don't raise them anymore.

I'd been away for forty-six years when I went back to find the same farm where I was born and raised. There wasn't a single ostrich or a single horse and we used to breed horses for show and racing--that's gentleman racing, no betting or anything like that, just prizes. Now everybody has an automobile. They even have a little airplane to dust the crops. I remember leaving my home in a horse and buggy and after forty-six years I went back by jet-propelled airplane. Isn't that something?

And the same thing with the house. But the funniest part of it, the same housekeeper who was there to say good-bye to me was still there to welcome me after forty-six years. If I keep a woman here for a year, my friends give me a medal, you know. A colored woman. There was a whole family of them. She started as a nurse and afterwards became the housekeeper, cook, and so on. Her daughter took her place and they retire them at a certain age. But the house itself, instead of just walking in--no house and its door were ever closed--you ring an electric bell. And they have telephones and even have radio. Oh my, they're altogether too civilized. Electric lights, of course. Now they're all so different.

So really electricity, communication, airplanes brought the whole world from twenty-four hours to one hour. I mean, when you travel now you can do [in one hour what you did in twenty-four hours]. Like it used to take me seven days by boat to San Francisco; now I can go there in four hours. But we haven't adjusted ourselves to live with that spirit or age. We can put a man on the moon and we still go and kill people because we don't like them. So wrong, isn't it?

In Johannesburg, before I left there, I started the first woman's swimming club. The men, of course, were very active but not the women. And then, when I came to Canada and Victoria, I organized a swimming club there and helped my husband, putting on track meets and bicycle races.

When we came here, the Uluniu Women's Swimming Club--that's a branch of the Outrigger Canoe Club--gave me an honorary life membership and asked me to represent them on the board of the Amateur Athletic Union [in 1916]. The Uluniu is the oldest women's swimming club, here in Honolulu, still active. They don't compete but they still have a club. It was right next to the Outrigger Canoe Club in Waikiki. So that's how I got into amateur athletics here.

We had very distinguished people on our board--a judge, the attorney general, the mayor and people like that--in those days. You put a number of busy men in an organization like that, and there's one woman, they'll put all the work on her. So they elected me secretary-treasurer. I had to learn a little bit besides swimming to know all about the other [sports]. At home we played tennis and basketball but not for exhibition or competitions really. But here I had to familiarize myself with everything from athletics to wrestling--nineteen branches of sport in those days. So I know a little bit about everything.

As a delegate from Hawaii, I was persuaded to go to the annual meeting of the National AAU in Chicago in 1921 and I didn't know--I thought there were other women there also--but I was the only woman at the convention. Only the secretary of the national body knew that I was a woman but no one else did and the impact on those men. . . . There were two right in front of me and they were smoking cigars and one man took his cigar out and said, "Bill, do you realize this is the last stand of the American man?" I felt horrible. I explained to him, "Don't stop smoking, because my husband loves his cigar." Of course I lied. But they were very gallant and sportsman-like; asked me to say a few words, of course, when I was introduced, so I said that I believed in amateur athletics from the missionary point of view. What I was doing in Hawaii: I got very few Orientals in those days competing, so we used to put on special events for Oriental children. Now it could very well be in reverse. I said that I believed that whatever, the amateur athletics ought to follow the American flag down to the Philippines and different places in the Pacific. So one man got up and said, "Well, in honor of the lady, I move that the Philippines be annexed to Hawaii." And I said, "Oh no, it's impossible. They're four thousand miles away and practically a foreign country." He said, "Well, you're all down there together." So that was the idea they had in those days, that the Philippines and Hawaii were right next to each other. The Philippines resented him terribly, so much so that they created their own set-up.

To get to Chicago it took me nine days--seven days on

the boat and two days and two nights on the train. And now, last October 1971, I flew the same distance in exactly [eight] hours, waited there and changed to go to Lake Placid. The convention was held there and I'm still on the board. There, they gave me a nice trophy. They call it a Veteran's Award, for being the oldest member on the Board of Governors and the longest in service. I was eighty-seven then and fifty-six years in amateur athletics. It was quite a nice trophy.

From there we flew to Guatemala. My son was with me. And then on to Rio de Janeiro. I had been there before but he hadn't. From there we hopped by African Airways to Johannesburg in [eight] hours--4,500 miles. And from there to Rhodesia and saw the Victoria Falls. It was the first time that any of my sons had been to Africa. We visited my old home and everything was so changed. They're so up-to-date. It's just like America. American friends have told me that in their travels around the world South Africa is more like the United States than any other country and I believe it. Of course the language helps a lot.

So we spent about two months there then something happened in India. All the airports were closed so we flew from Johannesburg to Mauritius in the Indian Ocean and to Perth, West Australia, then went up to Singapore and I stopped at [The Raffles], the same hotel where I lived fifty-three years ago on a similar tour around the Pacific. From there to Hong Kong. That's really a wonderful place, what they're doing there--expanding. I heard over the radio this morning about the new transportation they're going to put between the islands over the ocean. They have the same thing to Macao.

Macao is a great gambling place, a little island, the only base that is left to Portugal. In the early days, when the Portuguese were the maritime power practically of the world--the Portuguese and Spanish--they went from Europe around the Cape to the Spice Islands of Java and India. That's how the Cape of South Africa got settled. And Portugal was very strong, I remember, having visited several of their places before. And the Hollanders, of course, had Java that's now Indonesia. [Now] they all have independence. But Macao is the only place left to the Portuguese and it's just a big gambling place like Las Vegas.

I think that Hong Kong is my second choice of distinguished harbors, one of the most beautiful harbors to enter or rather exciting. Capetown is first. That Table Mountain is quite dramatic. Then Hong Kong; then Rio de Janeiro; then Beirut, Honolulu, San Francisco. I can't put them all in order but I've been fortunate to experience most of the harbors of the world.

From Chicago, they persuaded me to go to New York to help form the American Olympic Association. Every country has an Olympic Association that is responsible for the athletes from that country in the International Olympics team. America didn't have one and before that their athletes were sponsored by different groups. I didn't know what to do and I said, "Well, what could I do?" So the secretary said, "Well, you just watch me and when the argument goes so-and-so, you vote for Hawaii. You have three votes." It was held in the board room of the New York Athletic Club. So the reason they wanted me was that there was a fight. The YMCA wanted to control it and the army and navy wanted to control it and some other organizations--Interscholastic League and the AAU. They were the logical people to have it. So it was a fight. That was why they wanted me, not because I was very clever or anything, but just because I had the three votes from Hawaii. And they [the AAU] got it, of course. So the next year it was formed--the whole thing was set up in order--and I was blamed.

Hawaii was very strong in swimming in those days--they led America in swimming--so they put me on the executive committee and the first time I acted, actually, was in the 1924 games in Paris. I went with the executive committee. Nine men and myself took the whole team over, by boat in those days. And incidently, we had nine athletes from Hawaii in 1924. Duke Kahanamoku defended his title in the hundred meter and that was the time that Johnny Weismuller came up, unfortunately, and beat him. And Sam Kahanamoku was second [but came in third]. Sam could have passed him [Duke], but of course he wouldn't and they just didn't understand him. I was there when the committee took it up. They said they were going to disqualify the third man because he didn't try. It was so very evident and I knew the answer to it. I said, "But it's his eldest brother. Nobody would pass Duke. His younger brother wouldn't pass him. Don't you understand? This is the Hawaiian aloha." "Oh, vive la aloha!" So they were quite reconciled--they could understand then--so Sam got third. He should have been second really. I don't know if that should be for publication.

- A: I think it should be. I think that's marvelous. That does represent [and exemplify] the aloha spirit.
- F: In 1920, in the hundred meter--the classic event in swimming--the first four to finish were from Honolulu. Just imagine, of the whole world, the first four to finish were from Honolulu: Duke Kahanamoku, Pua Kealoha, Bill Harris --Wild Bill--and Kahili Boyd. He was entered from the navy. Those were the four to finish first, all from Honolulu.

lu. And then, Warren Kealoha--he's still on deck; he's in the hospital now--he won the backstroke twice in 1920 and 1924. He held it until 1928. He's a very fine man. He's still on deck but nearly everyone has gone of the Kahana-mokus.

People don't realize what a wonderful advertisement it is for Hawaii to have an amateur athlete defend his title or go in a championship. In those days, Hawaiians put up a record like Duke. The first time he went was in 1912 to Stockholm. Well, in those days it was the Sandwich Isles. The maps were still marked the Sandwich Isles. I remember I saw him in 1912 in New York and my husband said, "Oh, there's a prince from the South Seas telling me all about his swimming," so I went to see him. And of course, Duke, they thought, was a title but it wasn't a title. His name, you know. He's named for his father. His father, in Hawaiian style, was named Duke in honor of the visit that day of the Duke of Edinburgh, who was Queen Victoria's second son. He visited Honolulu. The boy [was born] that morning and they named him Duke and then our Duke took his father's name. And now some families with ambitions for their boys name them Duke. Or even a horse or a dog is named Duke. It was a wonderful advertisement for Hawaii. Then they realized, after Duke's performance, that it was no longer the Sandwich Islands, it was Hawaii. Literally swam Hawaii under the net, but people here don't realize. I think the tourist bureau or the government should capitalize on it more and support amateur athletes. Besides, it gives them a healthy nation, young people all going in for athletics when they're properly developed. They wouldn't have all this sickness that they have. I helped to organize the judo here--jujitsu--so I'm an honorary life member of them.

I was nominated for Mother of the Year this year, 1972. I couldn't imagine. I think I'm the only mother who arrived in that august body through amateur athletic steam. I was a Merit Mother and I got a certificate about what my particular activity as a mother was: not to populate the world with a few dozen children, but international sports. Mrs. [Dwight D.] Eisenhower is the honorary president. She lives in the Waldorf-Astoria.

A: And you're also in the Hall of Fame for swimming, isn't that correct?

F: Yes. That is in Fort Lauderdale, Florida, that Hall of Fame. They have a statue of Duke right at the entrance. Different associations would contribute something towards the original construction and I suggested, since it's aquatics, that we have a Hawaiian waterfall because Florida is so very flat. I think the highest point in the whole

state is twenty feet, something like that. The Bock Tower, about one hundred feet, artificial. So I said, "Let's have a waterfall about seventy feet high with lava rock." I had in mind one of the little falls that you see all over the island. So Matson [Navigation Company] cooperated and took some of the rocks over there and the agencies here did help--Mr. Moody and the [Hawaii] Tourist Bureau--and we sent a lot of lava rock. And I had visions of the water just falling and rippling over and the Garden Club was going to send orchids. Instead of that, they put it up as a straight wall. When I saw it I said, "No self-respecting water will want to go over that as a fall." I had in mind the water would trickle over like the natural style. But anyway, it's there and it creates quite an interest. Little chips of lava that they had left, they sold as souvenirs. Oh, there's so much to do; so little done. (She received the Swimming Hall of Fame Charter Plaque in 1965.)

At veterans' times at conventions they've given me awards for being one. The idea is that at conventions they give out awards, I suppose, as part of the program, not that I particularly deserved it. I'm usually picked as being the first woman at the convention. I got one there for that, [the 1921 Convention]. And since then the men are bringing their wives. Now I go to conventions merely to meet all my old friends. Some wonderful women there.

A: That would have been right after women got the vote [1920], in 1921.

F: Yes. I got it in 1922. That was how I couldn't become an American citizen. The law had changed. Women used to follow their husbands. My husband became an American but I couldn't. I looked into it. Oh, that's not for publication. Because the law had been changed, I had to come in under my own steam. The law was that persons who could not become Americans were unassimilable persons--those with crime records, divorced persons, and persons born in Africa. Just like that, as though the whole of Africa was colored people. I had to see a lawyer and I said, "What's unassimilable?" "Well, an unassimilable race, like Indians, Chinese, Japanese, Filipinos." Which was true. It was only a few years ago that they could become [citizens] unless they were born here, but they couldn't come from outside and become. I think [United States Senator Hiram] Fong got that law through. Persons born in Africa, they just assumed everybody was a Negro. That left me high and dry. For twenty years I wrote my own passport. I had a wonderful time; saved ten dollars every time.

I [retained] my British citizenship, though my husband became an American, thinking that I would automati-

cally follow him, as the laws were in all English-speaking countries, but I found then that I couldn't get a passport to go to France for the Olympic games because I was born in Africa. And when they produced our passports in France, the head of the American Olympic Association was very surprised when seven of the nine men on the executive committee were lawyers. One from Chicago, Illinois took it up with his senator from Illinois and on my account the law was changed in 1928, as far as the African part.

My passport to France was a large parchment scroll drawn up by the attorney general here in Honolulu and Governor [Wallace Rider] Farrington signed it and put the seal of Hawaii on it, that he knew me and I wasn't so dusky--I was all right. So that was the introduction and they accepted it. But it was interesting in Europe. Wherever we traveled, every few hours in somebody's boundary, they'd all look up and just stamp the passports; but here I turn up with my parchment and everybody had to read it. It was quite embarrassing sometimes.

Eleven years ago I went to Moscow to see why their athletes were so good and what their system was. I found it very much like the way I was raised in Africa. You get your athletic development or physical culture along with your ABC's. At six years old, it starts. By the time you're ten or twelve, you've had the whole thing in gymnastics and everything, then you choose what kind of sport you like and concentrate on it. But in my case, of course, it was never competition. In Russia I had my passport and I have nothing to show that I've been there. They never asked for it; never looked in it. And everybody, when I came back here, asked, "How did you get into Russia?" Well, I went with an American Express tour from London and I guess they were held responsible. They'd just count heads everywhere. There were about twenty of us, nearly all colonials and foreigners, assigned to certain hotels and led in sightseeing. I found it a very interesting trip.

A: I understand there's going to be a testimonial for you in August.

F: The International Rowing Association is honoring me. Mrs. [A. E.] Minvielle is the secretary-treasurer and [A. E.] Toots Minvielle I knew when he was a boy on the beach, a regular beach boy around the Outrigger Canoe Club about fifty years ago. He was a swimmer but mostly rowing. And they're doing interesting work. His great ambition is to take canoes to England. He's in correspondence with Cambridge and Oxford [universities] in England and they've challenged them. They are to row from Cambridge and Oxford on the Thames [River] and they're taking two outrig-

ger canoes over and challenging the English to row them by outrigger canoe across the [English] Channel to France. I think that would be a wonderful advertisement for Hawaii. The Australians are interested and they will send a crew. It's to celebrate Captain [James] Cook's discovery of [Hawaii and Australia]. I think it's a wonderful thing and people ought to get behind it.

But anyway, this is the organization that's honoring me. I'm a member of the association. It doesn't mean that I go in for rowing. I used to paddle but that's a long time ago. It's to be on August 14 at the Hibiscus Ballroom of the Ala Moana Hotel. One man is coming all the way from Long Island, [New York] to be there; and a man and his wife from the AAU from Indianapolis, the headquarters, are coming out for it, so it's quite important. It's all wonderful advertising for Hawaii, you know. Just like surfboards.

Duke Kahanamoku took the first surfboard to Australia in 1916 when they went. It was funny, I saw Duke swim in 1912 in New York before they went to the Olympic games and I never, never dreamt. . . . In fact, I'd never heard of Hawaii. I'd heard of the Sandwich Isles. And when I came here and was elected in AAU in 1916, my first duty was to write his credentials and arrange for his trip to Australia. He took the first surfboard there and it really caught on. It's all over the world now.

I remember about twenty years ago being in Beirut and seeing on the waterfront there, where the early missionaries came from England, people using surfboards. The boys from South Africa won the championship here last year while we were in Port Elizabeth where they come from. In December I was in Port Elizabeth when the news came through that the boys from there won the championship here. And in Peru there's a place that they call Waikiki Beach. Very strong in surfing there.

A: Stealing the thunder from the Islands. Did you ever meet Armine von Tempsky, by any chance?

F: Many, many years ago on Maui. She was quite young. She's not alive anymore. Her brother I had met. The Advertising Club used to meet up in the Roof Garden of the Young Hotel and it must have been in 1924, just before they went to the [Olympic] games, because she and I were the honored guests at the Ad Club lunch. Yes, she was quite a girl. Her people came from New Zealand. Von Tempsky. They were originally from Warsaw, Poland--Polish--but he became a British citizen in New Zealand and they afterwards came up here--the family. [Armine von Tempsky was a writer whose books about life in Hawaii continue to be very popular.]

A: Getting back to Madge Tennent, what can you remember about her especially? Any experiences concerning her?

F: No, except we used to talk over the telephone afternoons. Christmas, she used to send me a picture now and again. I used to get papers from Africa and send them to her. She always enjoyed it. And this sort of thing (pictures of South Africa). Pictures, she liked. She came from Cape-town. That's where she lived but she wasn't born there. She was born in England but grew up in South Africa and at an early age she was sent to France to study art. But her husband lived in Natal. I met people in Natal who knew him. But after they married--I think it was the first World War--they went to New Zealand. He was a New Zealander. It's funny, the one son here is my tax lawyer. I have a meeting with him this afternoon.

(We go to her front room now to record information about her many awards which are displayed on a wall there.)

A: (reading) Named an honorary citizen of Bennettsville, South Carolina--the "red carpet of the Carolinas"--May 15, 1972. [In connection with being Mother of the Year in May 1972.]

You are to be on the Don Robbs Show, July 3, 1972, [on Channel 4 TV].

1935-1972 37th Anniversary Year--American Mothers Committee--The Mothers' Convention in New York, May 8, 1972. At the Waldorf-Astoria.

(She reads the message that she delivered as Hawaii's Mother of the Year, a copy of which she gave me.)

F: That thing of nominating a Mother of the Year shouldn't happen to a dog. The things I had to go through, heavens! They had to give your account of your life from the day you were born up to the present. And the Athletic Club [person] that undertook all this, I just gave it to him and he had to sift it and make something of it.

A: You say you came here (to Kahala) to live three years ago?

F: Yes, from 2389 Prince Edward [Street in Waikiki]. 1969. I lived in the other place for fifty-three years. That address at 2410 Koa Avenue is also part of the property. (She mentioned that her present home is one of the oldest in Kahala, being about seventy years old.)

A: (reading from a brief biography that accompanies her photograph in a magazine of American Mothers of the Year)
"She may well be termed 'la grande dame of Waikiki.'"

F: Oh dear. The thing is with this sort of public life and especially with athletes and going about traveling, representing Hawaii, you always have to behave yourself so beastly well.

A: That doesn't seem to be too much of an effort for you.

F: In Paris, I remember wearing the American uniform. And by the way, everybody thinks that when you travel with athletes or to the Olympic games, that all your expenses are paid. Even this (Mother of the Year Convention). They aren't. Even the uniform I wore in that parade in Paris cost me thirty-five dollars in New York, made to order. It's a great honor that you're invited by international federations to officiate--like I was a timer in Helsinki and a timer in Buenos Aires and on the executive committee for international swimming in France. It's a great honor but you have to pay your own way.

There were heaps of places in Paris that I wanted to go to but I didn't dare show myself there wearing an American uniform, you know. It just wasn't done. I mean, it would be a reflection on the United States. People don't realize. Colonel Thompson had a talk for all the athletes on board: "Now remember, you're all invited as the good will of the United States. The eyes of the world are on you. If you do anything wrong, it's multiplied and pointed out as this and that and it reflects on your country, so behave yourselves." And the Hawaiians always were held up as being very well behaved and they were, especially for the Islands. There's a natural dignity about the Hawaiians, you know, that always stands them in good stead.

There were some very fine women at this [mothers'] convention. There was one lady from D. C. [District of Columbia], a remarkable woman. When we met each other I just felt as though I'd known her all my life. She [Mrs. Josephine La Venia Isenbecker] put her arm around me and said, "Oh, I know you." I said, "Have you been to Hawaii?" She said, "No, but not from that. I've known you in another world. Where have you been all these years? Why haven't we met before?" I said, "Well, I can only explain that it's quite mutual."

My mother used to say, "Oh, that's an old child" and I would say, "How could it be old? It's quite little; it's young." She said, "Oh yes, but it's an old soul. It's lived so many lives."

We are on the same plane of evolution. Put it that way if you want to. I mean, you meet people that you feel at home with; then you meet people you can talk to all day and never get next to them. But that woman, we just put our arms around each other and didn't have to talk. We just felt that we belonged to each other. It's a wonder-

ful feeling.

I've just realized that I don't know anything and now It's so unfair you have to kick off, you know. And where to? [Referring to death]

They [the Mothers of the Year] all emphasized their large families and all the graduates. One had a governor and the other one had a mayor and that's all big deals, you know. I'm just glad that none of mine have been in jail yet.

Makes me think of something I tried to spark ten years ago here. Pacific International Sports Organization. There's the Pacific and Hawaii's right in the middle. (a map insignia as a letterhead) And the nations around with her. Games like the British Empire games, besides the Olympics. The Pan American games played in all of Canada, from Alaska right down to Buenos Aires. Sectional games, you call them. Then there's the Far East, the games in Israel, and the Central European.

Now, for the Pacific, I tried to organize this thing some years ago and the International Olympics, as well as the Amateur Athletic Union, both approved it. That was in Las Vegas in 1960, so then I got on a boat and went down to Tahiti and they were all excited about it. All the islands, so long as their mother countries belonged to the International Olympics, were eligible. Like Australia and New Zealand, Samoa, Fiji. This was the area of it--all the countries bordering on the Pacific. That would bring in Hong Kong and Japan and so on to hold the games here every four years. Just Pacific games. And they were all ready to start and the legislatures had appropriated, or promised to appropriate, \$40,000 and the army and navy here were very strong for it. They would help to accommodate the visiting athletes. We wouldn't pay their expenses except when they arrived here. And that would be a wonderful advertisement for Honolulu every four years, to hold it here.

And then, while I was in Australia, I went to New Zealand and, oh, they were wonderful--worked up about it--and especially in rowing because they'd have the [Ala Wai] Canal here to train on. That's a wonderful course, except they made it too narrow when eventually they cut off about fifteen feet, so they can only get about three canoes on now, instead of four or five. And my friend wrote to me while I was in Australia that the legislature didn't come across with the money and turned me down, so of course they couldn't do anything further. The man here dropped it and it was no good me coming back, so I just went from Australia to Africa. It took me a year to get back home, a rather round about way, but I was very disappointed and so was Australia and New Zealand.

[These are] some of the articles I wrote in ten years

for the Advertiser on different kinds of athletic sports and results (in her portfolio). I came across interesting things that are forgotten now. To me, it's a serious sport. I mean it's a hobby. It's cost me so much but it's worthwhile, I think. I have seven scrapbooks. They all lie about in boxes and the same thing with photographs. Such interesting things. I've collected for over sixty years. My files are active on the work that I'm doing as committee chairman on different sports, such as the records.

About the only thing I do here now is keep the athletic records straight for athletes because I find that so important. A boy trains so hard and maybe he's fifteen years old the first time he competes in a track meet or a swimming meet and he sets up a record and unless the coach or somebody looks after it he doesn't get the credit for it. Now that might be the turning point of his athletic career. If the officials just drop him and he loses that recognition, there's no incentive to go on, is there? Whereas, if he sees his name in a program that he can stick in his scrapbook and tell the kids at home or show them a little medal or something he got, why, it makes all the difference. He goes on. I look after their athletic records. I'm a regular nut on it, so I'm not very popular with the officials.

There's no reason in these days why we shouldn't have a physically fit nation. It should start in the school from the ABC's but it's a terribly neglected part of our lives. Now they're going overboard and teach them sex and all kinds of things before they're ready for it. They should be physically fit. There's no reason why they shouldn't be. You can't rely on the food that we eat. That's nothing but chemicals these days, everything is so refined.

Doctors always want to know why I'm so strong and healthy and they can only put it down to the fact that I was twenty years old the first time I saw food come out of a can. We raised our own wheat, ground our own flour, and made our own bread; got fresh vegetables every day and killed our own meat every day. And imagine, with a family of nineteen or thirty-one. Everyone had a servant. When a child in the family was six years old, you got your own horse and your own servant. You're kind of let out on your own. Great life. I feel so restricted now.

And you see how kids go off from the tenth floor of a condominium building. How shocking! That's why I like our present mayor [Frank F. Fasi]. He's creating parks everywhere. I mean, for those people who're living upstairs like that and never touch the ground. They have to go to parks in an outdoor country like this. Just look at the slums in New York and it's terrible.

Of these prizes (in her trophy room) here's one that I value very much.

- A: (reading) "Exploring Olympic Certificate of Appreciation presented to Mrs. E. Fullard-Leo in recognition of service to exploring by [General] Edgar C. Dohlman, June 5-6, 1970."
- F: I was up at Schofield [Barracks]. It seems that the Explorers Olympics applies to Boy Scouting and all over the country the government assigns this work to the armed forces. So at Schofield they conducted a simulated Olympic game and they didn't know very much about it so they asked me to help them and I did. And I took the program [printed for the occasion]. That was the only time a general ever kissed me and put a lei on me. I felt very important but when I came home I read the program and I was so surprised to see this.
- A: (reading) "The true spirit of the Olympics is not to be found in books recording heights, weights, distances, or time; rather it is found in those individuals who are truly Olympian in spirit. It is altogether fitting, therefore, that the first Explorer Olympics in Hawaii be dedicated to Mrs. Ellen Fullard-Leo who truly exemplifies the Olympic spirit. She is the first woman ever to serve on the executive committee of the United States Olympic Association and amateur athletics has been her lifetime avocation. To a true Olympian, Mrs. Fullard-Leo, our games are respectfully dedicated."
- F: Yes, I value this very much.
- A: That is quite an honor. This is the program for the Explorer Olympics Award Presentation, at Conroy Bowl, Schofield Barracks, June 6, 1970. On the front of it is a picture of the moon as the astronauts photographed it and it is entitled "In the beginning. . .".
- F: I got this bowl last year at the convention. (She shows a picture of the presentation) They were presenting it and this man and his wife are coming out to this dinner they're going to give me. He wrote to me. He said that I look as though I was going to tell a naughty story but the light changed. I've known all these officials for over fifty-six years.
- That's my judo--jujitsu--boys from all ethnic groups and I'm the only woman there among them (in a photograph). Once a year they honor me. I sit in on their annual convention. I get a nice chop suey dinner. These boys would stop me in the street or, as happened the other day, a

taxi driver brought me home and he said, "You don't know me. Why, I'm one of your jujitsu boys."

A: (reading) "American Judo and Jujitsu Institute--Black Belt Graduation, 1959." And here she is in the middle of all of them (in the photo).

Plaque: "To Mrs. E. Fullard-Leo in appreciation for your sincere dedication to swimming in Hawaii from the Hawaii Swimming Club, 1967." (the plaque is in the shape of the seal of Hawaii and has the seal on it also)

Plaque: "Presented to Mrs. E. Fullard-Leo in recognition of her dedication to swimming by the Aquatic Department of the Amateur Athletic Union." (on it is the gold medal of AAU)

Plaque: "Mrs. E. Fullard-Leo--Mrs. AAU--delegate to the United States Olympic Committee, 5th vice president, Hawaiian AAU; persistent, untiring supporter of amateur sports--presented by the People of Honolulu." (in the shape of the seal)

F: It was given by Mayor John [H.] Wilson in 1952. There was a big scroll with it but supervisors signed it and I don't like it. Some of them could be in jail.

A: Certificate Award:

"Honolulu Quarterback Club 1952 Sports Award to Mrs. E. Fullard-Leo for contribution to the sport of amateur athletics in sportsmanship, self-sacrifice, and performance." Signed by Red McQueen, Honolulu Advertiser; Wallace Hirai, Hawaii Times; Joe Anzwino, Honolulu Star-Bulletin; Eddie Tanaka, Hawaii Hochi; and by the head coach and his assistant (names indistinct because the ink has faded).

Award: "Presented to Mrs. E. Fullard-Leo by Honolulu Quarterback Club in recognition of her long years of faithful service to sports. Banquet of Champions, February 16, 1959."

Diploma: (in French) Paris 1924, signed by Baron Pierre de Coubertin, the founder of the revived Olympic games. "To Mrs. E. Fullard-Leo as a member of the American Olympic Committee." (She has a photograph of the occasion)

Citation: "American Mothers' Committee, Inc. citation to

Mrs. Ellen B. Fullard-Leo, National Merit Mother of Honolulu, Hawaii, for outstanding service in the field of international sports, May 12, 1972, Golden Anniversary."

Koa Bowl: "Ellen Fullard-Leo, 50 years distinguished service, Hawaiian Association AAU, 1966."

F: I've never been able to afford enough to fill it.

A: Award: "Naval Air Aquatic Club--Most Outstanding Contribution Award to age group swimming 1961-1962--Mrs. E. Fullard-Leo."

Award: "Presented to Mrs. E. Fullard-Leo in recognition of her loyal and meritorious service to the Amateur Athletic Union of the United States and a lifetime devoted to amateur sports--the first woman ever to attend National AAU Convention."

Monkeypod Bowl: "AAU 1960 Award of Merit to Mrs. E. Fullard-Leo."

Plaque: "Hall of Fame, Fort Lauderdale, Florida--The Swimming Hall of Fame proudly honors Mrs. E. Fullard-Leo as a special charter member, 1965."

Certificate: "Hawaiian Association Amateur Athletic Union Certificate of Merit--Mrs. E. Fullard-Leo--distinguished service award in recognition of outstanding achievement in amateur sports during the year 1960, presented at Honolulu, Hawaii, November 26, 1960. Mrs. Richard W. You, M. D., president and Jack Botelho, secretary, Hawaiian Association AAU."

Certificate of Life Membership: AAU of the United States, May 22, 1947.

Certificate and Key made of wood: Key to the City of Columbia, South Carolina.

F: This the mayor sent me. I don't know why.

A: (looking at a photo of her husband in a full bathing suit almost completely covered by medals he won) My word!

F: He had over a thousand medals. I have some [more awards] in the other room but it's too much.

This is the sort of thing I mean: about three days ago one of the athletes came in here with three roses. He

was running around Diamond Head and he said he couldn't pass--he had to bring me something--so he brought me three roses. They drop in all the time. One would call up and say, "Well, I'm taking my girl out tonight but I want her to see some of your trophies and you can entertain us at the house. We won't have anything more than just a drink of fruit juice." Well, my house is open to athletes and boys like that. If they have no place to take their girls, well then, here they do. That's a way I feel I can serve them.

Everybody thinks I specialize in a particular sport and they think that I was an Olympic swimmer. I just let them think. I'd hate to show them. The only game I've ever played and still play is chess. It needs the least physical strength. These are my Olympic books. I get one every year. They give the name of everybody that's ever competed for the United States. (She talks about Capetown and their customs while we look at a magazine)

[In the official magazine of the AAU, Amateur Athletes, March 1970, there is an article, "First Lady of Olympics," by Barbara Cook, Rochester Post Bulletin, about amateur athletics as Mrs. Fullard-Leo's hobby.]

I was in Mayo's Hospital when I had my hip operation. I had a broken hip and for sixteen years I went on two crutches. This is what they took out (a very heavy metal baton-like piece). I offered it to the Junior Olympics for boys between eight and ten as a shotput.

(She now shows me a human bone) Look at this--not mine. They're developing our property in Waikiki and I wanted the first load of soil to put here on my grass and we sifted the soil and came across this thing. It's a femur. I want to take it to the Bishop Museum to see how old it is because I never murdered anybody there. But isn't it awful? (then back to her own hip) I haven't had a twinge since and I can walk without crutches now.

(She now serves lunch and the recorder is left on)

In Waikiki I had a whole lot for my back yard--always kept that--and we had all kinds of animals. When my children grew up we even had a monkey, dog and cat, large aviaries with all kinds of birds.

A: Were you sad to leave Waikiki to come here?

F: It was so noisy there. We leased the property--about an acre--for King's Alley. I think the Beacon magazine had an article on that. They came to interview me about it. I think it was last Sunday [June 4] we were supposed to

cut the maili lei to open the place but the promoter came back on Saturday and the place wasn't nearly ready so they called me up at 9:00 p.m. on Saturday to say they were postponing it until later in the month.

Very interesting. The Bishop Museum has a three hundred-seat theater there. They're the ones that got those double-deck buses from London to run between that and the Falls of Clyde, the boat they have. The idea of the King's Alley is to show people how far Hawaiians had advanced under the monarchy. Those are all replicas to scale of the buildings, like the old post office and the courthouse and things like that, during the 1870's and 1880's and 1890's too, I guess.

A: Why is it called King's Alley?

F: It was royal property we bought from Prince Kuhio and it was the entrance to old Aina'hau, which was Kaiulani's home. Aina'hau, in the back, was about thirty acres between the Ala Wai Canal and Kalakaua Avenue. And I remember when we bought that property right at the corner of Koa and Princess Kaiulani Avenue, they had the sentry boxes with two Hawaiians standing on duty to see who goes in and out, so they're replacing that. They're going to have that at the entrance to this [King's Alley] and, at night time, pull the flag down. And they have a bell there and change the guard like they do in London--sort of a tourist attraction --but they will be dressed in old time Hawaiian style, to give a little bit of Hawaiian color to it. [The King's Alley Honor Guard made its first public appearance in the Kamehameha Day Parade, June 12, 1972.]

A: I wanted to record the fact that you have an actual photograph of Kaiulani's peacock standing on a rock that looks like a sacred block of rock (a large natural rock) under the banyan tree at Aina'hau.

F: Well, that's all gone of course. Her home was out there and her father had his own house and her mother, Princess Likelike, was the sister of Queen Liliuokalani. She had her own hut. When she got tired of haole-style living, she used to go to it. And that hut--they call it the Robert Louis Stevenson hut--is the one up at the Waioli Tearoom. That was the one that Likelike had. I don't know why they call it the Robert Louis Stevenson hut, except that he visited them. He lived at Sans Souci, the place near the Natatorium. I think they have a big building there now. [Stevenson used to sit in that hut in the afternoon and have tea there, during his visits to the Cleghorn's Aina'hau home, according to Thomas Alexander K. Cleghorn, Kaiulani's half-brother.]

I knew Jack London. He was here when we came. Where the Royal Hawaiian [Hotel] is now used to be the Seaside Cottages. A New Zealander ran it and he [London] lived there. I remember having breakfast there so I could see the waves wash up against the wall. But oh my, they've spoiled that place with that big building there now [the Sheraton-Waikiki Hotel next to the Royal Hawaiian Hotel.] And the Moana Hotel didn't have the high rise on either side--the concrete wings. It was just the middle building. That was built by a New Zealander. Moana is not a Hawaiian word, it's a Maori word and it means "by the ocean." [The Hawaiian meaning is "open sea," according to Place Names of Hawaii.] The New Zealander built that first as his private home, then it was developed into a hotel. He had the concession of the liquor here in Honolulu, I think, so that was the outlet--the first hotel that he had. His name was [W. C.] Peacock, [a wholesale liquor merchant, whose original home on the property was moved "to another portion of the same lot, to make room for the Moana Hotel" in 1899].

A: Someone once said that Alexander Young built the Moana Hotel.

F: No, they owned it. Hawaii Hotel Company owned it [as of 1905]. That was Mr. Young, the son of one of the founders of Von Hamm Young. [Conrad] von Hamm was a German who came here and he married Mr. Young's daughter [Ida Bernice Young]. He passed away not long ago--a few years ago. Their home was up on Pacific Heights. Mr. von Hamm married the one Young girl and the other one was Bertha [Ruth] Young whose home was right by the Royal Hawaiian on the water where they just put that high rise and Sheraton Hotel. That was her home property. She died there. [2267 Kalia Road]

A: Did you know, by any chance, Governor Cleghorn's son? Governor Cleghorn, of course, by the time you came here, had already passed away, hadn't he?

F: Yes. The reason we bought that property too was that it was at the entrance to the old royal home and he had left Ainalau--that was the thirty acres--to the city or the territory as the nucleus for a botanical garden. His hobby was botany and he brought things from Japan--the first soap seed tree, that sort of thing. In Japan the poor people use it for washing. It lathers just like soap. And I remember he had a fence around it because urchins used to go and pick them up and sell them to jewelers. They'd drill holes through the seeds and string them for leis. Now it grows very easily and grows several places.

But he [Archibald Scott Cleghorn] left it to the city so we thought we'd buy the entrance to it and the only stipulation he made was that the gates close at sunset so it would be quiet at night. And when we came back from Canada to come and live here and develop the property, they told us that the legislature turned down the gift. They wouldn't have it. Just think what they have to pay now. If the thirty acres there were a beautiful botanical garden, just imagine how different Waikiki would be. That concrete jungle wouldn't be there. That was the 1915 legislature that turned it down. [Actually it was the Seventh legislature in 1913 that declined the gift of Ainalau because it was the last regular session that could have authorized acceptance, under the terms of A. S. Cleghorn's will.]

He had a number of illegitimate children and they pulled strings to have it passed but Princess Kaiulani was supposed to be the only child. There's one thing about the old governor, we never knew who his children were until they'd get married and he always insisted on taking the girls up the aisle of the cathedral--Saint Andrew's Cathedral--and he'd give them a dowery. On Kalakaua Avenue, where that public housing is now near King Street for very high people with limited income or something--very fine buildings--[Makua Alii-Kalakaua at 1541 Kalakaua Avenue] all that used to be, right along there, there were three houses with beautiful, colorful hedges in the front. They were very similar, each lot with a house on it. Well, that was the dowery he gave his daughters when they got married--illegitimate daughters. He set them up. I know the names of some of them. Some kept his name too. Those were the days. [Elizabeth Grimes's daughters--Rose, Helen and Annie Pauahi Cleghorn--were adopted by A. S. Cleghorn on January 13, 1868.]

A: I think that he didn't make any secret of it, though, did he?

F: No. I think he has one son [Thomas Alexander Kaulaahi Cleghorn]. Kaiulani was educated in Europe for the role of queen because she was the heir-apparent to the throne, you know, after Liliuokalani. And then the overthrow of the government [Kingdom of Hawaii] happened and annexation and she came home [in 1897, prior to annexation in 1898]. She's supposed to have died of a broken heart but I think she had TB [tuberculosis]. She was in love with a cowboy, I remember, on the Big Island somewhere.

A: Do you know who he was? [She says she doesn't but a romance with Sam Woods, her escort at Parker Ranch, was rumored at the time.] She was at Parker Ranch and had gone

out horseback riding in the rain and developed pneumonia. She died of pneumonia, apparently. This was the story I heard. I have seen the last letter that she wrote to her father. It's in the possession of his son. [Kaiulani's symptoms were diagnosed as inflammatory rheumatism, complicated by exophthalmic goiter, according to the Webbs in KAIULANI: Crown Princess of Hawaii.]

F: Yes, I remember the boy. With Kaiulani, when she came from Scotland, was an attendant [Mary O'Donnell] who came with her. And he [A. S. Cleghorn] set her up in a house right on the water next to the Moana where the Surfrider stands now. The Cleghorn house was there. It was their beach house. Well, she lived there with this boy. She brought him up there. She died after we came here. [Mary O'Donnell was his governess and, later, his guardian.]

But this boy--I forget his name now (she later remembers him as Alex)--I think he lives on the other side of the island. [He has a home in Punaluu and one in Makiki.] He's quite a character but he never had to work, like so many of these part-Hawaiians that have an income. Like the English say, "We can't teach the heathen everywhere to be dignified." The dignity of labor. They'd say, "Well, why be dignified?"

A: Well, he was very active in sports at Punahou and was, apparently, quite distinguished in athletics on the mainland. He went to Santa Clara University, I believe, and they wanted him to be on the [Pacific Coast Baseball League] team, but he decided to stay in Honolulu instead.

F: Yes, that's the trouble, I think. So many of the old families had a lot of land--like the Campbells and other estates--and the descendants, third and fourth generation, have a stipulated income. You never hear of them doing anything much.

I have an appointment this afternoon with my lawyer. I'm setting up a trust for each of my grandchildren. They'll each have a trust to see them through their education but it dissolves when they're aged twenty or twenty-five. They've got to work, otherwise they don't get anything.

A: Good for you. This juice is a nice combination of things.

F: I put in a lot of lemon juice. That's Mrs. Ellen Watumull's [suggestion]. She has my name. She wrote to me the other day. She's the other Ellen so I wrote to her and called her genang, the Dutch word for namesake. She was the one that got me started on lemon juice; have at least one lemon every day. She's a very fine woman. She wrote me such a nice letter. She remembered me coming up to their house.

The 1932 Olympic games were in Los Angeles and I was on the committee but I didn't go; but I was the head of the AAU here then and the teams came through--a hockey team from India and a swimming team and a track team from Japan and the Philippines. They all came on one boat and the boat stopped here for a day and a half, so we entertained them and gave them a chance to go and work out. It was the first time Indians came here and the only Indians here were the Watumulls, so Mr. [Gobindram Jhamandas] Watumull--he lived up in Manoa [2011 Hunnewell Street]--we had a reception down at the old Seaside Hotel in Waikiki. No, the Royal Hawaiian was built then. We were somewhere there. And I remember Mr. [David] Watumull of KTRG [radio station]. He was about five years old. I've never seen him since but I've often spoken with him over the phone. I was a strong backer for his radio station.

Do you often wonder how names form? Scandinavian, it's -sen; the English have -son. Johnson means John's son. [Mrs. Ellen Watumull's maiden name is Jensen.] Then they would take trades, I suppose. My great-grand forbear must have been a barber because the name Barber is a family name, see. I inherited that.

It's a beautiful world but how they spoit it. But when we go to Palmyra and get away from civilization--well, we have a radio there. . . (the next sentences are inaudible) and electric lights. We have a caretaker there. Sea gypsies put in and take away whatever they can. Of course anybody could kidnap him, for that matter. We send him provisions. Then there are fish and coconuts. The last time I went down [in 1953] they had a school. About one hundred people lived there and it was still under the government FAA [Federal Aeronautics Administration]. Federal Communications [Commission] had a station there.

I visited the school and gave the children an ice cream party under the coconut trees. But the navy took in ants, flies, mosquitoes, roaches, which we never had there. The navy brought in everything, even rats. But I told the women, "Don't wait to get fresh milk from Honolulu. Use the cow of the Pacific." The coconut is known as the cow of the Pacific. Its milk is very nourishing. I said, "Get me two nuts and I'll show you how to make both cream and milk." And from twenty trees we couldn't get six coconuts. The rats. After the services moved out, the rats had nothing more to eat--refuse and stuff--so they went and fed on the coconuts. Palmyra is an atoll--a coral island--so there's not very much soil, but coconuts grow anywhere. That's why they're so large. They practically grow out of the water.

There are no people [other than the caretaker] there now. After the nine years of fighting and the Supreme Court decision came through, the war was over and they

moved away. There was a vice admiral in charge of the whole thing. He had quite a nice house. I inherited that but now it's gone. He had an automobile, a Cadillac, but they had to evacuate by a certain time and he couldn't get it on a boat to take it away, so he just pushed it into the lagoon. And there you look down on it and see all the little colored fish swimming through it. Nature is kind and covered it all up. But there is a landing strip for airplanes. DC-4's can land there.

I always have a map (of the world) in the kitchen so I can get my bearings.

(We go to the kitchen to look at the map while she tells me about all the places she has visited. Although the recorder was left on, our conversation is too indistinct to transcribe. The following is a story she told which memory recorded:

Once, when she had broken her ankle or leg and was being examined by a doctor, he noted that she had a scar on her ankle and she told him an ostrich had pecked her; a scar on her knee where a monkey bit her; a low left shoulder as a result of falling with a horse; and a hole in her back where a bull jabbed her. The doctor asked, "Madam, do you work for a circus?" She replied, "No, I was born and raised on a farm.")

END OF INTERVIEW

Transcribed and edited by Katherine B. Allen

Edited by Leslie Fullard-Leo in 1979

Note: Late in 1979, the United States government again focused its attention on Palmyra, this time as a site for the storage of nuclear waste, a proposal that is completely unacceptable to the Fullard-Leo family.

Mother of the Year Message, 1972

The following is the message delivered by Ellen Barber Fullard-Leo as Hawaii's Mother of the Year at the Mothers' Convention in New York, May 8, 1972:

In my home in Honolulu I have some twenty citations and trophies, each of which I felt topped my life, but being selected to join this outstanding group of mothers eclipses every other honor.

I was nominated by the Tantalus Runners, a club of long distance runners who compete in relay racing around our Island of Oahu. They may have misjudged this contest, for they suggested that I wear a swimsuit and bring the board that I used for surfing at Waikiki Beach in my palmy days.

I was born and raised on a farm in South Africa, the youngest of nineteen children--seventeen brothers and one sister. At age eighteen, I was reeducated in the English language and trained to be a Presbyterian missionary at the noted Huguenot Seminary.

My mother used to say that it behooved a good wife to be interested in her husband's hobbies and, since mine was a recognized international amateur athlete who believed that wherever we lived we should serve that community contructively, we just naturally found ourselves in the midst of its athletic interests.

Settling in Hawaii in 1915, America's oldest women's swimming club--the Uluniu--honored me with a life membership and elected me to serve it on the board of the Hawaiian Association of the Amateur Athletic Union of the United States that controlled sixteen sports. Elected its secretary-treasurer the following year, I was delegated to represent it at the national convention in 1921 and was the first-ever woman to sit with this august body; but the men were gallant and good sports and even invited me to join officers in New York to form the United States Olympic Association. Fortunately, Hawaii then led the nation in swimming and I was elected to the Executive Committee in 1922. In this capacity I went with the national team to the Olympic Games in Paris in 1924. A thrilling experience like this causes athletics to get into one's blood stream.

Working with young men and women from so many ethnic groups and all walks of life offers a wonderful opportunity to help and guide them--in fact, to me, work akin to the missionary work for which I was trained.

I was honored to be invited to officiate at the first Pan-American Games in Buenos Aires in 1951 and at the Hel-

sinki Olympiad the following year. My interest in this field has taken me up and down and over and around the world several times, visiting such far-flung antipodean places as Tasmania and Greenland; Valparaiso and Moscow; Surinam and Jakarta; and Johannesburg and Honolulu.

For ten years I contributed a Sunday column on "Amateur Athletics" to the Honolulu Advertiser.

At the AAU convention at Lake Placid last year, I was awarded its Veteran's trophy for being an octogenarian and for lengthy continuous service--eighty-seven and fifty-six years, respectively.

I find great satisfaction in having continuously about me young people to whom I could pass on the importance of clean living and sportsmanship. My home is ever open to clubs for meetings and social gatherings and since Hawaii currently has over fifteen hundred registered amateur athletes, I feel they are my personal family for, along with my three sons, they call me "Ma Leo."

I believe in amateur sport for apart from creating a fit nation, it is based on the very foundation of the message that all great teachers of all time and clime have preached to humanity: "Do unto others as you would have them do unto you."

To thank you for your interest and hospitality and the opportunity to learn so much from this distinguished group of mothers, I do so in Hawaii's soulful. . . Mahalo and Aloha!

Ellen Fullard-Leo
Hawaii's Mother of the Year, 1972

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THE WATUMULL FOUNDATION ORAL HISTORY PROJECT

In May 1971, the Watumull Foundation initiated an Oral History Project.

The project was formally begun on June 24, 1971 when Katherine B. Allen was selected to interview kamaainas and longtime residents of Hawaii in order to preserve their experiences and knowledge. In July, Lynda Mair joined the staff as an interviewer.

During the next seventeen months, eighty-eight persons were interviewed. Most of these taped oral histories were transcribed by November 30, 1972.

Then the project was suspended indefinitely due to the retirement of the foundation's chairman, Ellen Jensen Watumull.

In February 1979, the project was reactivated and Miss Allen was recalled as director and editor.

Three sets of the final transcripts, typed on acid-free Permalife Bond paper, have been deposited respectively in the Archives of Hawaii, the Hamilton Library at the University of Hawaii, and the Cooke Library at Punahou School.